

we revered principle, we now cultivate permissiveness. We are a people bereft of inspiration and adrift without policy. The confidence of the American people that once could conquer a continent has been shaken to the core. We cower before the challenges we must face, we cringe where once we would tower.

The country is in crisis. We face a foreign crisis, a domestic crisis and a moral crisis. That's what the 1968 election will be all about. And that's why the Republican Party confronts great obligations as well as great opportunities.

The Republican Party offers the American people a choice — the choice of strong, honest leadership. And when I speak of "strong" leadership, I do not mean strong in the popularity polls but strong on principle. When I speak of "honest" leadership, I speak of a leader who has the courage to tell the public the truth. Now, as never before, there is a great need for America's leaders to talk forthrightly and frankly, to emphasize realism and not rhetoric.

This is not an easy thing to do, especially for the elected official whose political survival depends upon public popularity. But these are not easy times and there are no easy answers. Yet, to pretend that situations are less grave or that instant solutions are on hand simply compounds the problem. We are where we are today because our nation's leaders have attempted to oversimplify, to sugarcoat, to appease the formidable false god called apparent public opinion. However, this god is insatiable and capitulation is not only unreasonable, it is irresponsible.

Our leaders today must face the challenge. And I believe the American public, long victimized by the credibility gap, is far more ready to hear the truth than our leaders are ready to tell it.

The Republican Party offers the American people a return to government by principle. Government-by-expedience, the instant answer and the easy way out, has failed.

The American people are not so naive as to believe the instant answer or the oversimplified solution. We live in a time too complex to require anything less than complicated solutions. We know that more police patrolmen alone will not totally eliminate crime. We know that complete withdrawal from Vietnam will not secure lasting peace in Southeast Asia. We know that a negative income tax or a guaranteed annual wage is not the way to combat dependence but to perpetuate it.